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Food Information Series
United States Department of Agriculture
Office of Information
Washington 25, D. C.

No. 84-c

April 1, 1944

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Subject: Last minute drive to increase soybean acreage through press, radio and direct contact

Field Distribution: Extension Directors, State AAA Chairman, FSA State and Regional soybean areas

Suggested Use: Background information

EDIBLE FATS AND OILS OUTLOOK

Now is the time when farmers make the crop plans which will make or break our oil supply position for the year 1945. We are fixed all right for 1944. We have had the biggest slaughter of hogs in history. We have turned out the oil from the 1943 crops of soybeans, peanuts, and flax -- the biggest ever grown in the United States. We are going to be able to import more from foreign countries than we did earlier in the war.

But what about 1945? Farmers will give the answer with their plantings of the oil crops this spring. We will need even more fats and oils in 1945 than in 1944. That will be a year of the heavy demand for explosives and other military products of the oil crops, or great demands for fats as food. But it will be a year of smaller production of animal fats, as the hog population declines under the need for adjustment of animals to feed supplies. We will have 400 to 500 million pounds less of these fats than in 1944. We must replace this with oil crops. That replacement will require the full national goal acreage of these crops. Should oil crop acreage fall short of the goals for 1944, the nation risks falling short in 1945 of a critical war material.

THE GOALS

The March 1 Intention to Plant Report indicates that we will fall short of the soybean goal by about 2,500,000 acres. The situation is similar in other oil crops. Although increased price supports for soybeans and peanuts were announced after March 1 and acreage planned is probably somewhat greater than indicated on March 1, it appears that present plans are still short of the goal.

The Intentions report indicates that farmers plan to plant oats on some acreage that will need to go into soybeans if the goals for soybeans are to be reached. The March 1 report indicated intentions to plant oats in the principal soybean states from 17 to 38 percent above the state goals for oats.

An intensive drive to appeal to farmers to increase plantings of soybeans must be made through all media.

-2-
THE APPEALS

IT'S GOOD BUSINESS!

Replace part of the planned oat acreage with soybeans. It is profitable as well as patriotic.

From an acre planted to soybeans the meal will give roughly three times the total digestible protein for livestock feed that an acre of oats will yield!

We need the soybean meal to feed with corn. Our most serious feed shortage has been the high protein feeds.

We will get fully as much feeding value from the acre of soybeans, and oil -- badly needed for war uses -- is an additional wartime contribution.

The dollar per acre return on soybeans is higher than oats, the support price of soybeans having advanced to \$2.04 while oat prices are being held down.

Here are Bureau of Agricultural Economics figures comparing yields, feed values, and acre returns of oats and soybeans in four Corn Belt states:

State	Probable yield		Feeding Value				Per Acre Value*		
	per acre		Lbs. T.D.N.		Lbs. digestible				
					protein				
	Oats	Soybeans	Oats	Soybean	Oats	Soybean	Oats	Soybeans	Oats
	Bushel	Bushel		meal		meal	Dol.	Dol.	Feb.
									price
Iowa	40.7	19.3	931	767	122	348	30.52	39.37	75¢
Illinois	38.1	20.8	872	827	118	375	30.10	42.43	79¢
Indiana	28.0	17.0	641	676	87	307	23.24	34.68	83¢
Ohio	34.4	19.5	787	775	107	352	29.24	39.78	85¢

*Oats at February 1944 State average farm prices, soybeans at \$2.04 per bushel. Soybeans require 5 to 6 hours more labor per acre, and compete with corn at peak season.

IT IS PATRIOTIC!

We need the edible fats and oils to feed our army ... to speed victory. An important part of our military strategy is to provide food for allied fighters and workers and liberated people behind the invasion fronts.

The direct war use for the oils must be met ... glycerine for explosives ... plastics for guns, other weapons and equipment ... glue for construction of hulls for PT boats and planes.

LATE PLANS. Farmers who increased oat plantings may still add some acres of soybeans without reducing corn acreage. An acre of sorghum or Sudan grass will give the feed equivalent of about two acres of pasture. By planting these crops, several acres of pasture could be diverted to soybeans and still maintain feed supplies. Sudan grass and sorghum seed supplies are adequate.